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## FP-12-17 Child Poverty in the United States, 2010

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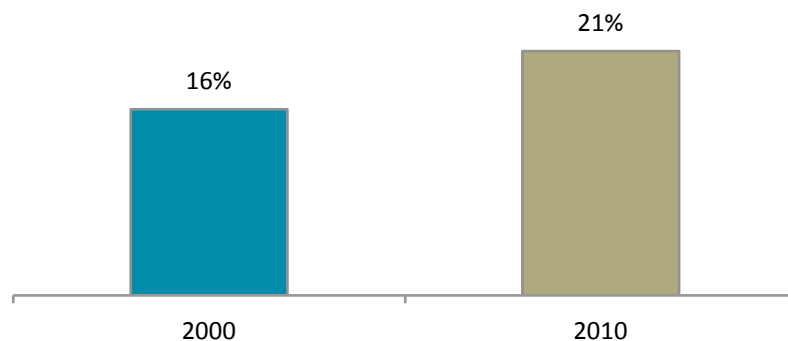
# Child Poverty in the United States, 2010

Understanding child poverty is crucial, as research has linked poverty to lower levels of child well-being, as well as health, economic, and behavioral problems in adulthood (Anderson Moore et al., 2009). Using 1-year estimates from the 2010 American Community Survey, this profile examines poverty rates for children 17 and under according to their race-ethnicity and nativity, family structure, and the educational attainment of the household head in the child's home.

## Child Poverty Trends

- Figure 1 shows that more than 1 in 5 children in the United States live at or below the poverty threshold.
- During the 2000-2010 period, there were 2 recessions and a 31% percent increase in child poverty—from 16% in 2000 to 21% in 2010 (Dalaker, 2001).

Figure 1. Percentage of Children at or Below Poverty Threshold, 2000 & 2010

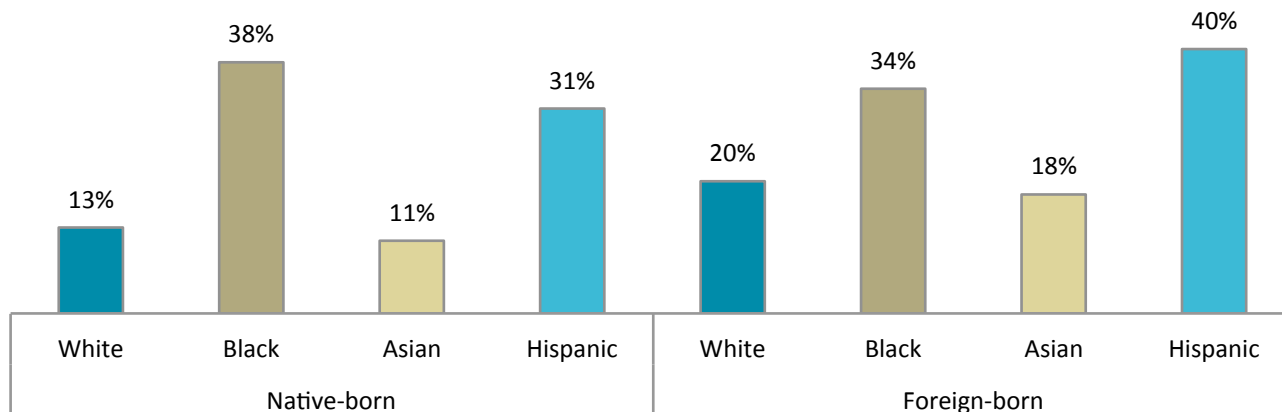


Source: Dalaker, 2001; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2010.

## Child Poverty Rates by Child's Race, Ethnicity, and Nativity

- Figure 2 shows that foreign-born children experience a higher rate of poverty than their native-born counterparts, *except* among Blacks.
  - Thirty-four percent of foreign-born Black children live in poverty compared to 38% native-born Blacks.
  - Asians and Whites have the lowest poverty rates, regardless of nativity.
  - Foreign-born Hispanics have rates 9% higher than native-born Hispanics (31% vs. 40%).
- Native-born Black children and foreign-born Hispanic children suffer the highest poverty rates, 38% and 40%, respectively.

Figure 2. Child Poverty Rates by Race, Ethnicity, and Nativity, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2010

*This profile draws on research published in the following articles:*

Anderson Moore, K., Redd, Z., Burkhauser, M., Mbwana, K., & Collins, A. (2009) Children in Poverty: Trends, Consequences, and Policy Options. *Child Trends Research Brief*, 2009-11.

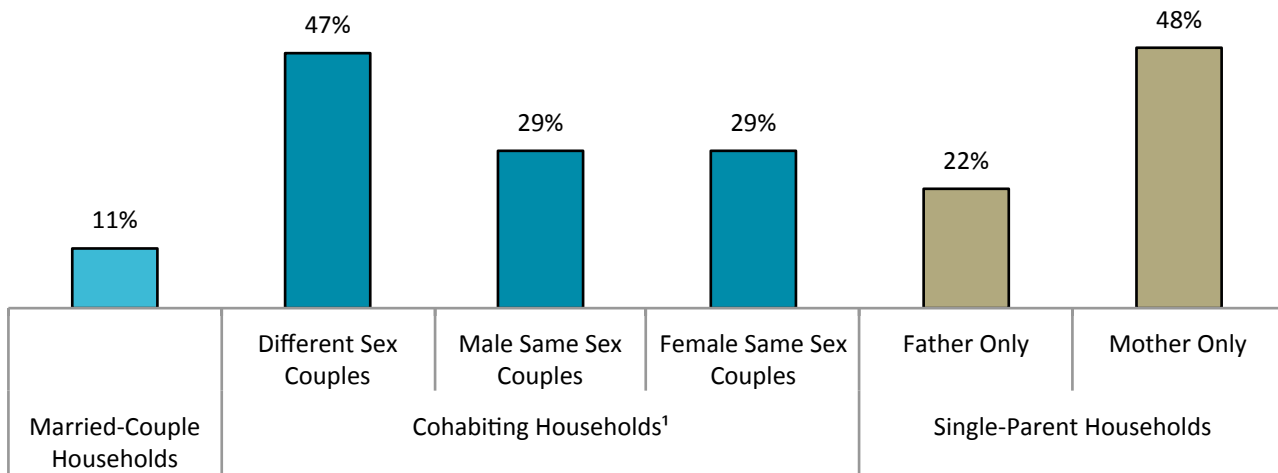
<http://www.childtrends.org/listAllPubs.cfm?LID=D688D32A-3B35-41CA-AF86D79017944287>

Dalaker, Joseph. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, Series P60-214, *Poverty in the United States: 2000*. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2001.

### Child Poverty Rates by Family Structure

- Children in married households are the least likely to be in poverty, at 11%.
- Children of same-sex cohabiting households experience poverty at a rate of 29%, regardless of parents' sex and are 18% less likely than children of different-sex cohabiting households to experience poverty (29% vs. 47%).
- Children living in single-mother households and children living in different-sex cohabiting households have the highest rates of poverty (48% and 47%, respectively), as shown in Figure 3.
- Children living in single-mother households have poverty rates more than twice that of children in single-father homes (48% vs. 22%).

Figure 3. Child Poverty Rates by Family Structure, 2010



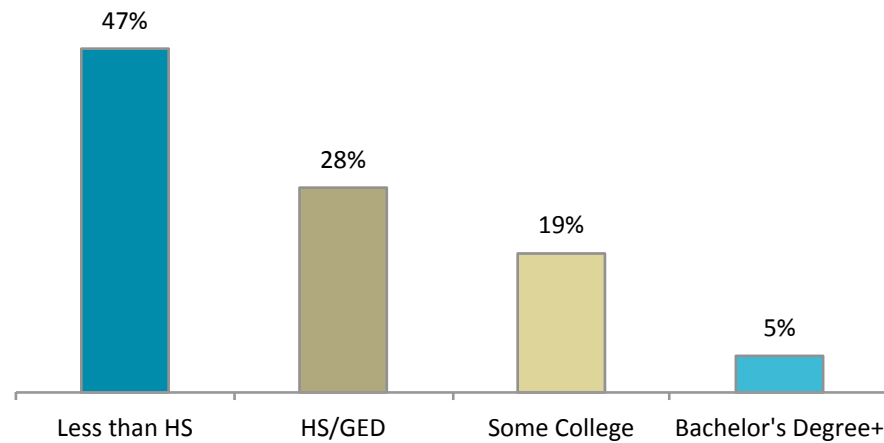
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2010

<sup>1</sup>Poverty levels for same-sex and different-sex cohabiting households are based on the income of the household head only and do not include the income of cohabiting partners.

### Child Poverty Rates by Educational Attainment of Household Head

- Figure 4 illustrates the negative association between the educational attainment of the household head and child poverty rates.
  - Children in households headed by adults with less than a high school education experience the highest poverty rates at 47%, nearly 10 times that of children living in a household where the head has a bachelor's degree or more.
  - Children in households headed by adults with at least some college (including associate's degrees) have poverty rates 9% lower than those with a high school degree or GED.

Figure 4. Child Poverty by Educational Attainment of Household Head, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2010

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